

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 429

By Davis L

A RESOLUTION To recognize Berniece Atkinson on the occasion of her retirement from the Cumberland County University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service.

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Berniece Atkinson is one such remarkable person who has served with probity for 34 years with the Cumberland County University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service; she will retire on June 29 with the distinction of being the longest-serving Adult Extension Agent in the history of the Service; and

WHEREAS, An Overton County native, Mrs. Atkinson is the oldest of seven children, and, as a result, was well-versed in the arts of cooking, sewing and home accessory projects; and

WHEREAS, Berniece developed an early interest in cooking and family issues and, with the encouragement of her high school economics teacher, graduated with a degree in Home Economics Education from Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, She began her estimable career with the Extension Service in Cumberland County as a 4-H Agent, and remained in that position until 1969 when she became an Adult Extension Agent; and

WHEREAS, For the past five years, Berniece Atkinson has served with distinction as Area Coordinator of the 21-county Cumberland District Tennessee Consumer Education Program (TNCEP), a specially-funded program that focuses on educating food stamp-eligible families on nutritional food choices and ways to get the most cost-effective and nutritional foods for their money; and

WHEREAS, Berniece is also a part-time Family and Consumer Science (FCS) Agent, a county-funded position in which she teaches state-mandated courses for divorcing parents, childcare provider training sessions and other FCS-related topics; and

WHEREAS, Berniece exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, She is especially grateful for the love and support of her husband, J. D. Atkinson, a Cumberland County High School Assistant Principal who is also retiring this year; and their sons, Jamie, Jason and Jon, all of whom have embarked on promising careers in the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, On June 7, 2001, her colleagues hosted a retirement reception in Mrs. Atkinson's honor at the Crossville Depot; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her distinguished career, she has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her peers and superiors alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor Mrs. Berniece Atkinson on her remarkable career with the Cumberland County University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service, and extend to her our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.